



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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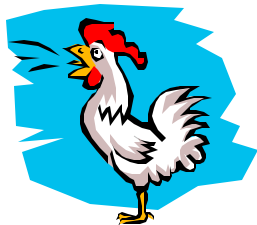
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Market News Branch



NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Trade sentiment was steady to barely steady, mostly steady. Retail demand was light to fair, best where featured. Food service demand was in a full range, with fast food having best movement. Supplies were adequate to ample, but closer balanced for heavier birds in the Northeast. In the parts structure, supplies were at least adequate, except for leg quarters and wings which were moving into a better position. Trading was light to moderate, best where numerous retail ads were present. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mixed, but mostly desirable.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading remains unchanged at 57.25 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 59.00 cents last year on the 5th of May, 1999.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

DOCK PRICE

ITEM	(CENTS PER POUND)
BREASTS - B/S	137.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	72.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	99.50
LEG QUARTERS	19.00
WINGS	51.50

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

15 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE		
WEEK ENDING 04/29/00	2000	1999	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	184,064	183,331	0
CHICKS PLACED	149,009	147,173	+01

BROILER EGGS SET IN 15 SELECTED STATES UP SLIGHTLY

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 184 million eggs during the week ending April 29, 2000. This was up slightly from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 82 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED UP 1 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 149 million chicks for meat production during the week ending April 29, 2000. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through April 29, 2000, were 2.48 billion, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 10-Jun-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 153.6 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 152.8 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 153.5 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 143.5 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 60.74 CENTS PER POUND.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was quiet and receipts were often limited to previous bookings. Offerings were fully adequate to ample and were in the closer balance on the over 3 pound sizes. Retail and distributive movement was no better than fair and lacked the aggressiveness normally attributed to increased consumer first-of-the-month spending. The market tone was about steady and continued to be influenced by a hoped for pickup in first-of-the-month activity and the rapidly approaching Mothers Day. In the parts complex, all items were at least adequate.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was steady. Demand was fair to moderate and showed signs of improvement in some locations. Supplies were generally sufficient for trade needs. In the parts structure, breast items were adequate with boneless skinless moving into a better position. Wings were sufficient, but becoming less available in some areas. All other parts were more than adequate for the light demand, except where retail ads increased interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were desirable to heavy, mostly desirable.

MIDWEST Trade sentiment on whole broiler/fryers was steady to barely steady. Additional whole bird and wog offerings fully sufficient for the limited buying interest. Movement into retail channels improving slowly, mostly light to fair. Retail features noted in Ohio on whole birds at 49 and 59 cents, thighs at 49 cents. In Chicago, retail features reported on whole fryers at 79 cents, split breasts at 99 cents. Boneless/skinless breasts featured at retail enterprises in Ohio at \$1.79, in Michigan at \$1.99 and \$1.98 and in Chicago at \$1.69. Food service demand was mixed, slow to fairly good, best into fast food accounts. Floor stocks balanced to fully adequate, sizes desirable to heavy. In the parts complex, trading was active on tenders, moderate on leg quarters and drumsticks, generally inactive on the balance. Supplies reported as tight on tenders and fully sufficient on all other items. Trade sentiment steady on leg quarters, steady to barely steady on all other items.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone was generally steady. Trade sentiment was barely steady. Offerings were fully adequate. Retail demand was moderate overall by restaurants best by fast food, moderate to good by stores best where featured. Floor stocks generally adequate. The market tone was about steady on parts.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYER MARKET Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was typically light for midweek with hopes for any major improvement this weekend dwindling. Offerings were at least sufficient for current limited needs. Live supplies were moderate; weights were in a full range, but mostly desirable. Processing schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 56 to 68 cents. Trade sentiment was generally steady. In the parts market, breast items continued to be a struggle to move. Leg quarters were improving slightly. All other items were at least adequate. *BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

RANGE	57-68
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	59.14
NO. OF BOXES	6,330
*6 of 8 plants reporting.	

MAY 02, 2000

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MAY 03, 2000

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	687	125.00-169.00	125-130	130.08
TENDERLOINS	144	140.00-205.00	140-145	153.97
BREAST - LINE RUN	192	66.00-74.00	-	69.33
FRONT HALVES	104	49.00-55.00	-	50.96
LEGS	46	27.00-34.00	28-29	27.91
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	819	15.00-18.00	16-17	15.83
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,044	17.00-20.00	19-20	19.28
WINGS (WHOLE)	146	39.00-48.00	45-47	44.45
WINGS (CUT)	588	49.00-72.00	52-55	54.64
DRUMSTICKS	46	24.00-34.00	-	25.30
THIGHS	49	22.00-34.00	-	24.20
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
TRADING FOR MAY 02, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S RANGE	AVERAGE
32.00 - 36.50	33.40

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	537	130.00-169.00	130-135	131.96
TENDERLOINS	174	145.00-205.00	-	166.10
BREAST - LINE RUN	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
FRONT HALVES	105	48.00-51.00	-	49.33
LEGS	86	27.00-34.00	-	27.49
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	819	15.00-18.00	15-17	16.07
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,164	17.00-20.00	19-20	19.22
WINGS (WHOLE)	162	39.00-52.00	-	47.74
WINGS (CUT)	414	51.00-69.00	54-56	55.42
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
TRADING FOR MAY 03, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S RANGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
31.50 - 34.50	32.70
	33.60

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Trucklot buying interest was mostly light and unaggressive, typical of mid-week activity with the bulk of movement centered around standing commitments. Boneless skinless and bone-in breasts remained available; however, buying interest was both spotty and cautious. Leg quarters were in generally good balance. Wings were irregularly available, but at least adequate. Movement in retail and distributive channels reflected some light and spotty improvement; however, floor stocks were fully capable of handling current needs. Trade sentiment was mostly steady.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ITEM	MAY 02, 2000		
	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	130	131.44	413,120
TENDERLOINS	135	148.62	40,200
BREAST - WITH RIBS	53-54	66.96	89,560
BREAST - LINE RUN	53	55.92	73,500
LEGS	29-30	32.05	120,520
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	18-19	20.93	283,594
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	37.22	49,750
THIGHS	28-29	30.59	50,610
B/S THIGHS	86-87	92.25	32,580
WINGS (WHOLE)	50-51	60.33	112,120
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.24	11,880
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	31.84	13,480
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	38.92	26,000

ITEM	MAY 03, 2000		
	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	130	134.01	343,160
TENDERLOINS	135	150.45	43,560
BREAST - WITH RIBS	53-54	62.42	207,080
BREAST - LINE RUN	53	57.63	118,240
LEGS	29-30	32.87	172,760
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	18-19	19.67	437,519
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	34.03	135,750
THIGHS	28-29	33.00	89,150
B/S THIGHS	86-87	92.64	49,040
WINGS (WHOLE)	50-51	60.21	209,880
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.05	56,240
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.28	55,160
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	44.60	78,160

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		ACTUAL		AVG WTS
	05/03	05/02	05/01	04/28	05/01	04/28	04/26	04/24	
ALA	3,879	3,957	3,929	4,076	5.08	4.88	3,757	5.07	
ARK	5,076	5,248	4,973	5,461	4.88	4.65	5,186	4.99	
DELMARVA	2,390	2,403	2,442	2,306	5.24	5.16	2,286	5.30	
KY-LA-TN	2,053	2,095	2,056	2,058	4.61	4.38	1,972	4.52	
MISS	2,758	2,760	2,759	2,663	5.11	5.00	2,738	5.37	
NC	2,603	2,522	2,574	2,703	5.92	6.01	2,596	5.89	
TEXAS	2,325	2,322	2,290	2,259	4.97	4.78	2,157	4.93	
TOTAL	21,084	21,307	21,023	21,526	5.10	4.93	20,692	5.12	
MON-WED 63,709 (A)							60,097 (A)		

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 03-May 00 is estimated to be 31,544,000 up 1.19 percent from a week ago and up 2.9 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,173,000; last year 30,664,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS		RANGE
FRESH FRYERS		76-80
ROASTERS 4# & UP		80-90
HENS UNDER 5#		
HENS OVER 5#		79
DUCKS		125
RABBITS-WHOLE		299
RABBITS-CUT UP		309
SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY		
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS		
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	92-96
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	102-104
	DRY PACK	107-111
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	119
	DRY PACK	95
DUCKS		98
		152-166

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 06-May-00

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	05/06/00 (1)	04/29/00
THOUSAND HEAD		
BRO-FRY	160,019 (2)	156,129
LT HENS	2,168	2,107
HVY HENS	1,530	1,494
CHECK TOTAL	163,717	159,730

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 06-May-00 is 156.1 million head compared to 156.3 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 160.3 million head or 4.2 million more than estimated available. For week of 13-May-00 the estimated available is 157.2 million head.

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT

(IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	05/01/00	04/24/00	05/03/99	05/01/00	04/24/00	05/03/99
PACIFIC						
COAST	15,586	15,304	30,389	14,774	14,753	15,869
LOS ANGELES	179	189	1,410	5,315	5,319	10,190

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 05/02/00

	LO	HI	AVG		LO	HI	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	-	-	-	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	.10	.25	.13	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	1.45	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	1.05	-	BANTAMS ea.	.75	8.00	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	.20	1.00	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	1.75	2.75	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.80	1.25	1.10	ROOSTERS ea.	2.00	5.75	-
GEESE lb.	-	.20	-	GEESE ea.	1.50	2.50	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.70	1.30	1.15	DUCKS ea.	1.75	7.00	-
RABBITS lb.	.15	1.30	.96	RABBITS ea.	-	2.00	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.00	7.50	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	1.00	3.00	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	4.75	6.00	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	1.50	2.00	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-				

TOTAL COOPS 106

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF MAY 01, 2000

HENS	RANGE	
	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	56-58
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	61-65

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending April 28, 2000

	<u>Whole Chickens</u>	<u>Breasts</u>	<u>Legs W/ Thighs</u>	<u>Necks, Backs & Wings</u>	<u>Livers/ Gizzards</u>	<u>Hens</u>
RAYON						
Low	66.60	125.48	77.22	24.13	5.79	57.92
High	69.98	135.14	86.87	33.78	7.24	57.92
Mostly	67.57	135.14	86.87	33.78	7.24	57.92
SAN JUAN						
Low	63.71	125.48	77.22	26.54	7.24	53.09
High	66.60	139.96	86.87	33.78	9.65	53.09
Mostly	65.64	135.14	77.22	28.96	8.69	53.09
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	66.60	125.48	77.22	24.13	5.79	55.50
High	69.02	135.14	86.87	33.78	7.24	55.50
Mostly	68.53	125.48	82.05	24.13	7.24	55.50
BECERRA						
Low	65.15	125.48	77.22	28.96	7.24	53.09
High	66.60	144.79	86.87	38.61	9.65	53.09
Mostly	65.64	139.96	86.87	28.96	8.69	53.09

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